

to accord priority to Eastern and Western Champaran and Sitamarhi districts in North-east Bihar;

(c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Post offices in rural areas are opened keeping in view financial, distance and population norms prescribed for the purpose. Panchayat Headquarters are given preference for opening of post offices subject to fulfilment of these norms.

(b) Out of a target of 250 branch extra-departmental post offices to be opened in Bihar during the year 1991-92, the target assigned for East Champaran, West Champaran and Sitamarhi districts are 5, 5 and 7 respectively.

(c) These Post Offices are expected to be opened by 31.3.92.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Negligible Broadcast of Hindi Programmes by Air, Dibrugarh

3987. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to negligible broadcast of Hindi Programmes by All India Radio, Dibrugarh in Upper Assam and poor reception of Vividh Bharati and other programmes, the entire area is deprived of the listening the programmes;

(b) if so, whether government propose

to install a low power transmitter at Dibrugarh for relay of Vividh Bharati programmes; and

(c) if so, the details of the plan and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRJA VYAS): (a) to (c). The All India Radio Station at Dibrugarh broadcasts programmes in a number of languages including Hindi. Hindi news bulletins and some programmes in Hindi are also relayed from Delhi. An integrated North-Eastern service functioning from Shillong also originates programmes in Hindi in addition to relaying National Programmes in Hindi.

There is no proposal to set up a transmitter at Dibrugarh for relay of Vividh Bharati programmes as the area does not fulfill the following criteria:-

- i) Size of the potential audience
- ii) Density of population and
- iii) Market potential.

Renewal of Interest by World bank for Power sector

3988. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has renewed its interest to finance the power sector in India;

(b) whether a high power delegation has made some negotiations with the Power finance corporation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The World Bank had never ceased to finance the power sector in India.

(b) and (c). A proposal of the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) for a line of credit of US \$ 265 million is pending with the world Bank. world Bank's officials' discussions with the PFC related primarily to this proposal.

Use of Solar Energy for Small Refrigerations

3989. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned ' Gene bank of medicinal herbs' appearing in the Times of India, Bombay edition dated September 21, 1991; and

(b) if so, the details in regard to the use of solar energy for sail refrigerators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are two routes for use of solar energy for small refrigerators - Solar Photovoltaic and solar thermal. In solar Photovoltaic powered refrigerators direct current electricity is generated with the help of photovoltaic cells which in turn is used to operate the compressor. In solar thermal refrigerators heat energy from the sun is used to energise the refrigeration systems.

Vacant Posts in Police Radio Department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3990. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of posts in Police Radio department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and

(c) the steps taken to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

Equipping Police Personnel

3991. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have evaluated the weaponry and other equipments possessed by the various extremist outfits and militant group together with the source of supply; and

(b) the steps the Government have taken to equip the police personnel to much the combat power of extremist and militant groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). Position regarding the weaponry available with the various extremist outfits and militant groups is assessed and monitored on a continuous basis by the Central Government in consultation with the State government agencies concerned.